



Shutdown

Close to Home: Greenbelt Tells Its Shutdown Stories

by Gary Childs

How is the U.S. government partial shutdown affecting people who live in Greenbelt? The News Review invited a large cross-section of Greenbelt residents, via the Greenbelters page on Facebook, to share stories about how people or businesses in town are being directly affected by the shutdown. At midnight on December 22, several agencies of the federal government temporarily discontinued their functions (shut down) because Congress and the Administration were not able to agree on legislation that would have provided funding for them to remain open. According to the Washington Post, around 420,000 workers from affected agencies are considered essential, such as Transportation Security Administration (TSA) personnel, and are working unpaid, while another 380,000 are not reporting to work, such as almost all employees of NASA and the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. While the News Review does not have statistics on the number

of Greenbelters that are either federal employees or contractors with the federal government who are affected by the shutdown, the number is likely considerable. Because over 5,000 people are members of the Greenbelters Facebook group, the News Review's call for stories reached a wide audience. On the other hand, because the call only went out to particular participants of a social media site, there will necessarily be categories of people not covered. We have compiled the responses we received and divided them into three separate articles published in this week's paper. They will look at what people have to say about the shutdown's economic issues, unexpected consequences, and also will show some of the emotional responses to it.

Though the News Review hopes the shutdown ends soon, we invite readers to continue to send stories about the shutdown's effects. Please send them to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Greenbelter Jaden Dirksen Earns Eagle Scout Award

by Jonathan Murray



PHOTO BY JONATHAN MURRAY

Jaden Dirksen, right, receives the Eagle Charge from his father, Matt Dirksen.

It took almost eight years, but Greenbelt resident Jaden Dirksen of Boy Scout Troop 214, chartered to the Prince George's County Elks Lodge #1778 in Riverdale, reached a lifetime goal by earning his Eagle Scout badge, the highest rank awarded by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The fact that a youth is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in scouting but also for the young man as he enters higher education, business or industry and community service. Only about four percent of all Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

Jaden follows in the footsteps of his father Matt Dirksen who also earned his Eagle Scout badge and who shared with Jaden the Eagle charge (obligations) during the ceremony. The charge challenges Jaden to be the embodiment of the five Eagle obligations: Honor, Loyalty, Courage, Cheerfulness and Service.

Jaden was joined by over 75 attendees including Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Judith Davis, members of his troop, over 10 Eagle Scout alumni as well as friends and family. Jaden's family in attendance

See **DIRKSEN**, page 7



PHOTO BY ROBIN OLSON

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club officers and committee chairs celebrate at the December Holiday Party. From left: Solange Hess, Joan Baker, Suze Marley, Marti Galvin (president), Randi Anderson and Cathy Brannan. See more photos, page 12.

Shutdown

Money Matters Loom Large

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

A federal government shutdown affects many areas of life, but economic issues are, in a way, the most obvious. When any business closes, whether temporarily as in this case, or permanently, for example with a private enterprise that has gone out of business, its employees feel the economic effects. Here are some of the finance-related stories of Greenbelt residents affected by the partial government shutdown as collected from the Greenbelters Facebook page.

Rachel Roberts-Jones relates that as a so-called non-essential contractor, "I can't bill the government for services not rendered. The small company I work for

is kind enough to guarantee our salary until the end of the year, but after that no pay. Since the company is sourcing several days of pay they can't bill the government, Christmas bonuses are minimal if at all. If this shutdown lasts much longer, especially after the holiday spending, primary expenses (mortgage, food, power) will barely be covered and secondary local spending

(eating out, gym, shopping, traveling) will have to cease. This will affect my child's college savings, my retirement contributions, my emergency safety net and my daily lifestyle until I can recoup the losses. The impacts are greater than most realize and more long term, especially with so many in the tri-state area

See **MONEY**, page 8

Three School Board Members Are Graduates of ERHS

by Matthew Arbach

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

According to Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Principal Reginald McNeill, it is exciting to see graduates Raaheela Ahmed, David Murray and Joshua Thomas in important leadership positions, that of serving on the Board of Education for Prince George's County Public Schools. He remembered that during their time at ERHS they distinguished themselves as prominent leaders, able to get students to see things differently in new and positive ways. All three board members credit their ERHS experience for, as said by Ahmed, "laying the foundation for public service."

Ahmed is from the class of 2011 and was elected to the board in 2016. She first ran in 2012 at age 18, while a student at the University of Maryland.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PGCPs

Joshua Thomas

She represents District 5, where many ERHS students reside.

While at ERHS, Ahmed said she "broke out of her shell" and had her "first true leadership experience." Beginning by joining the rugby team in 10th grade, Ahmed went on to become

See **SCHOOL**, page 7

What Goes On

Sunday, January 6
1 to 3 p.m. Community Art Drop-in, Community Center
Monday, January 7
7:30 p.m. Council Worksession with Economic Development Coordinator, Municipal Building
Wednesday, January 9
8:30 p.m. Council Worksession, Budget Update, Community Center
Thursday, January 10
7 to 8:30 p.m. Greenbelt Pedestrian and Bicycle Task Force Open Meeting, Community Center

Letters to the Editor

Meals on Wheels Serves Greenbelters

I have had the honor of being a volunteer for Meals on Wheels for the past three years. We are located in the United Methodist Church at 9601 Rhode Island Ave. in College Park. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. we cook, pack and deliver food.

Last Thanksgiving we decided to start a new tradition.

Some of us asked Kathy Selzer, the chairperson and volunteer coordinator and chef par excellence, if we could show our gratitude to Greenbelt first responders and bring them Thanksgiving din-

ner. She agreed and even gave us a discount. We were able to show our appreciation to the Greenbelt police department with eight Thanksgiving dinners.

Meals on Wheels College Park serves Greenbelt and the surrounding area. Two of the seven routes we deliver are basically Greenbelters. If you can, please send any donations directly to 9601 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD 20740, phone 301-474-1002. If you would like to give me a check, then I can get you a tax deductible receipt plus a huge thank you!

Amina Khalifa

Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.



See our website, greenbeltnewsreview.com, for articles in Spanish.

Sunnyside Road Construction

Be aware that the long-planned replacement of the bridge on Sunnyside Road crossing Indian Creek will begin on or around January 7. Please stay alert while driving in that area. For more information on the bridge replacement project, see News Review page 6, April 4, 2018.

Pete Reppert



I'D LIKE TO ORDER THE LITTLE GREEN SALAD, PLEASE.

Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.



Send us your photos!

The News Review would like to print more photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture. Send us no more than five photos at a time.



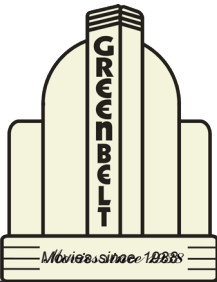
PHOTO BY JILL CONNOR

The holiday lights at Roosevelt Center



On December 22, the annual Shop with a Cop event began with a shopping expedition to Target (see photos in last week's paper). The participants then went to the Greenbelt Firehouse for a wrapping party, where they wrapped their presents and enjoyed lunch and desserts.

- Photos courtesy of Greenbelt Police Department



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org
Members Always \$6.50!
Members' Kids Free!
Adults \$9, Senior/Student \$8, Kids \$6
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES
Jan 4th - Jan 10th

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS (R) (DVS) (CC) (2018) (124 mins)
Fri. 2:30, 5:00, 7:30 PM
Sat 2:30, 5:00, 7:30 PM
Sun. 2:30(OC), 5:00, 7:30 PM
Mon. 5:00, 7:30 PM
Tues. 5:00, 7:30 PM
Wed. 2:30, 5:00, 7:30 PM
Thurs. 5:00, 7:30 PM

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER (NR) (1957) (CC) (119 mins)
Mon. 1:00 PM - Free

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Greenbelt News Review

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads - 8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$50/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.

Community Events

What on Earth Is The Green New Deal?

The Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) will meet Wednesday, January 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 114 for a discussion.

Greenbelters are familiar with the original New Deal upon which Greenbelt was based. It was a series of new public projects, reforms and other programs that President Franklin Roosevelt put forward between 1933 and 1936 to help pull the U.S. out of the Great Depression.

So what is this new Green New Deal? Made popular by the youth of Sunrise.org and newly elected Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, “the Green New Deal is a broad and ambitious package of new policies and investments in communities, infrastructure and technology to help the United States achieve environmental sustainability and economic stability.” (see dataforprogress.org/green-new-deal/)

The meeting is an opportunity to learn more about the plan and the organizations that are popularizing it. What would the Green New Deal look like here in Greenbelt? As always, the last portion of the evening is set aside for announcements and updates on local and national issues GCAN is following.

For more information, contact Lore Rosenthal at lore@simplicity-matters.org or 301-345-2234.

SAGE Will Offer Self-awareness

Every Day Feels Like Saturday is the title of a thoughtful and inspiring SAGE class offered at the Community Center Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Subtitled “a new philosophy of being,” it provides training in self-awareness. Each class is carefully planned and includes some combination of word study, meditation, self-examination, story, art or movement. Group discussion is integral and encouraged. Registration for SAGE classes begins Friday, January 11. These classes are for seniors 60 and older and are listed in the Greenbelt Recreation Activity Guide.

Hospital Holds Stroke Support Meeting

Doctors Community Hospital will hold its monthly stroke education meeting on Wednesday, January 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Bowie Senior Center, 14900 Health Center Drive, Bowie.

This free session will teach stroke survivors and caregivers how to manage the physical and emotional challenges caused by strokes. Participants may share experiences and offer comfort and empowerment to others. Professionals will provide information about stroke prevention and management. To register call 301-552-8114.

Arts Board Meets

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet next on Tuesday, January 8 at 7 p.m. in Room 112 of the Community Center.

At the Library

Teen Advisory Board
Monday, January 7, 4p.m., ages 13 to 18, limit 15 participants. Volunteer and work together to make the library a better place for teens by talking about books, music, movies and suggesting what teens would like to see in the collection. Registration required; contact the branch either in person or by calling 301-345-5800. Prince George’s County Public Schools student participants may earn Service Learning hours. (Board meets weekly on Monday afternoons.)

English Conversation
Tuesday, January 8, 6 p.m. Learning to speak English? Join the club and practice speaking English in a friendly atmosphere with people from diverse backgrounds. (This club meets weekly on Tuesday evenings.)

Ready 2 Read
Tuesday, January 8, ages 3 to 5, 7 p.m., limit 30 people. Wednesday, January 9, ages newborn to 2, 10:15 a.m., limit 15 babies with parent(s)/caregiver(s); ages 2 to 3, 11:15 a.m., limit 30 people. Thursday, January 10, ages newborn to 2, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., limit 15 babies with parent(s)/caregiver(s); ages 2 to 3, 4:15 p.m., limit 30 people.

Kids Achieve
Wednesday, January 9, 4:30 p.m. Mentoring, reading and homework help for students in grades 1 to 6. (This club meets weekly on Wednesday afternoons.)

Golden Agers to Hear Cherry and Brodd

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club invites all Greenbelt seniors to a special presentation entitled Bringing in the New Year with Song! on Wednesday, January 9. Greenbelt’s own amazing duo Chris Cherry and Stefan Brodd will entertain. There could be no better way to welcome the New Year. Members and guests alike are invited at the regular meeting time, 11 a.m., in the Community Center.



PHOTO BY KATHY KARLSON

Free Community Art Drop-in on January 6

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program welcomes visitors of all ages to a community art drop-in on Sunday, January 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. Admission is free and reservations are not required. The event takes place at the Community Center.

Kathy Karlson, an artist in residence at the Community Center, will lead a painting party. Paint clouds, trees, waves and other forms according to your own inspiration using drawing and color wash techniques. All materials will be provided.

While there, visitors may see the current art gallery exhibit, The View Within and Without: Painting and Collage by Sylvie van Helden. The show features selections from two series. Van Helden’s “Hashtag Mandala” paintings each bring together 12 Instagram users’ images culled through exhaustive hashtag searches of words with spiritual connotations. The Legend of the Koi is based on an ancient Chinese tale about perseverance that guided a personal journey through grief.

Also check out the Museum’s current exhibit at the Community Center, The Knowing Hands That Carve This Stone: The New Deal Art of Lenore Thomas Straus. Straus is best known locally as the creator of the iconic Mother and Child statue in Roosevelt Center and the impressive bas reliefs on the façade of the Community Center. From 1 to 5 p.m. enjoy a guided tour of the Museum’s historic house across the street at 10-B Crescent Road for a small admission fee.

For more information about City of Greenbelt art programs, visit greenbeltdmd.gov/arts or call 301-397-2208. Arts programs are sponsored in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Below: Painting by workshop leader Kathy Karlson

Davies’ Paintings Currently on Display

There will be an opening reception on Sunday, January 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. for Greenbelt artist Sally Davies’ exhibit Point of View at the Maryland Milestones Heritage Center, located at 4318 Gallatin Street in Hyattsville. The paintings in this exhibit are part of her series of landscapes with unusual vantage points. “In this current political world of insular countries and self-protectionism, I want to show our planet as one whole place, a community. Aside from recognizable architectural clues for a specific place, the people in my paintings look so familiar. They are doing ordinary things, like going to work, taking kids to school, cycling home and meeting with friends. I want to show that common bond of humanity throughout the world.”

Davies has lived and worked in Prince George’s County for over 20 years. Originally from England, she studied illustration and graphic design at Sheridan College in Canada. Her illustrations have been published in magazines, cookbooks, menus, textbooks, posters and 14 children’s books in Canada and the U.S. Her award-winning illustrations are done with ink line and bright watercolor washes. The exhibit is currently on display and will run through February 28.

For more information contact info@anacostiatrials.org.



PHOTO BY SALLY DAVIES

This painting, from Sally Davies' 2017 show at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center in Alexandria, shows the occupants of a row boat, seen from a bridge in Central Park, New York City.

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext. 4215.


All meals, which provide at least one-third of Recommended Dietary Allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.


Thursday, January 3: pork roast with apricot mustard sauce, scalloped potatoes, green peas, wheat roll, fresh fruit, orange juice

Friday, January 4: creamy tikka chicken, parslied rice, garlic parmesan cauliflower, naan bread, mandarin oranges, apple juice

Thoughtful Discussion At MakerSpace, Jan. 8

When is it bad to be true to ourselves? Should thee “to thine own self be true” if the better angels of your nature don’t have a voting majority in the counsel of your psyche? The thoughtful discussion group that meets at the MakerSpace on Tuesday evenings will take up the topic on January 8 at 7 p.m., after a two-week hiatus for the Christmas and New Year’s holidays. Those interested in discussion and cheerful banter are welcome to attend.

**Greenbelt Access Television**
2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbeltaccessstv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581

**Final Cut Pro X Bootcamp - \$25**
9:30am-3:30pm
Saturday, Jan. 12th

Learn the most important basic elements of video editing on Apple’s Final Cut Pro X software. (Prerequisite: Orientation. Limit 4 people)

Check out our Channel on Comcast 77 and Verizon Fios 19
For our schedule, visit: www.greenbeltaccessstv.org and click on “Channel”

**BOOK TICKETS ONLINE:**
WWW.GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG
FOR INFO:
INFO@GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG
301-441-8770

COMING JANUARY 11
STONEFISH

by Erica Smith, directed by David Dieudonne
A Guest Production from The Coil Project
January 11, 12, 18, 19 at 8PM
Sunday matinees: January 13 & 20 at 2PM
Ticket prices: \$22 General Admission, \$20 Students/Seniors/Military, \$12 Youth (12 and under)

COMING SOON:
February 2 - 23, 2019 - *Perfect Arrangement* - directed by Ann Lowe-Barrett
GREENBELT ARTS CENTER-123 CENTERWAY-GREENBELT, MD
(UNDER THE CO-OP GROCERY STORE)

Remembering Greenbelters Who Died in 2018

- Sharon Ann Conroy Alfaro, 75, April 3, 2018
Richard “Dick” Patrick Allen, Jr., 78, May 10, 2018
Harold Atwood Anderson, 68, October 11, 2018
Robert Zdzislaw Anzelmo, 85, August 17, 2018
Michael “Mike” Edward Bates, 60, May 21, 2018
Robert Beers, 90, November 24, 2018
Elizabeth “Betty” Bianchi, 90, October 17, 2018
Ruth Bond, 92, January 27, 2018
Ralph A. Bram, 85, August 24, 2018
Cecelia Gill Brinsko, 88, October 24, 2018
William Paul Byerly, Sr., 69, June 4, 2018
Mary Auerbach Carson, 88, March 5, 2018
Joseph “Shayne” Carstens, 81, August 5, 2018
Hazel Chatman, 97, October 5, 2018
Joseph Costa, 88, May 1, 2018
Bruce T. Coulter, 64, September 15, 2018
Carmen Joseph Davino, Sr., 86, January 30, 2018
Daniel DeHaven, 65, January 9, 2018
Jesse Brent Ezzell, 31, February 5, 2018
John “Danny” Flanagan, 53, January 14, 2018
Elsie Nyrop Forbes, 100, May 31, 2018
Dorothy Marie Gaffney, 93, February 17, 2018
Alfonso F. “Al” “Fonce” Geiger, 93, September 15, 2018
Lydia Kramer Goldstein, 88, August 21, 2018
Judith Louise Gonda, 68, April 13, 2018
Ustadh Abdul Hakim (Steven Leveille), 40, March 5, 2018
Jeanne Kasko Hardy, 85, April 1, 2018
Patrick Hardy, 59, March 8, 2018
Susette Marie Horstkamp, 72, September 6, 2018
Kelly Ivy, 63, May 9, 2018
James Edward Keifline, IV, 56, October 30, 2018
Barbara Snyder Knox, 93, July 1, 2018
Robert Zdzislaw Kubiczek, M.D., 94, April 23, 2018
Carolyn Diane Lubetzky, 75, August 3, 2018
Hugh C. Lucas, 88, January 19, 2018
Joseph R. “Ray” Marshall Sr., 79, July 31, 2018
Jesse W. McCullough, 41, October 9, 2018
Ruth Ann McElroy, 87, April 14, 2018
Mary McKinley, 93, August 2, 2018
Douglas McNeill, 83
Lea Komiakoff Mirabella, 104, May 8, 2018
Fred Mooney, 76, October 13, 2018
Ronald Andrew Ott, 76, April 11, 2018
Andres Giovanni Peres, July 6, 2018
Stan Robinson, 60, July 3, 2018
Jennifer Lyn Robinson, 51, November 20, 2018
David Charles Rowland, 63, June 14, 2018
Jacquelyn “Jackie” Jestine Sanders, 72, November 23, 2018
Elizabeth Fitzgerald Uber, 63, September 11, 2018
Thomas Wertz, Sr., March 19, 2018
Fred Wilcox, 60, October 12, 2018
Marjorie “Margie” Lee Wilkinson, 80, September 13, 2018
Roger E. Wilson, 62, December 12, 2018

25 Years of Service



Community Center Supervisor Di Quynn-Reno receives a pin for 25 years of service from City Manager Nicole Ard, at the annual city employees holiday luncheon.

PHOTO BY BEVERLY PALAU



Congratulations to Jaden Dirksen who earned his Eagle Scout badge. For his service project he built a pollinator garden at Buddy Attick Park. (See story, page 1.)

The News Review sends compliments of the season to all its neighbors and friends in Greenbelt and beyond. The members and staff of the newspaper are proud to serve the community and bring its news, concerns, joys and sorrows to its readers.

We encourage you all to continue to read the paper, patronize our advertisers and send us news of the exploits of families and friends.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



**Catholic
Community
of Greenbelt
MASS**

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building
ALL ARE WELCOME.

Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

City Notes

The Aquatic & Fitness Center provided several individuals access to a free shower in connection with the Safe Haven Shelter program hosted by local churches.

The Center also teamed up with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to collect Toys for Tots. The toys have been distributed to local families.

Public Works street maintenance crews worked on low spots and potholes on the path around Greenbelt Lake, and also repaired potholes on roads throughout Greenbelt.

Facilities Maintenance continued working with the contractor on the dance studio floors at the Community Center.

Refuse/Recycling crews collected 29.48 tons of refuse and 14.06 tons of recyclable materials.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

**Worship Service 10 a.m.
Appreciate the present**

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



January 6 10 a.m.

"Building Resilience for Justice"

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Clark Ritz, Worship Associate; and special music

How do we sustain ourselves and for doing the hard work of Justice? Seeking resilience and partners in the work to enable us to be more effective and spiritually whole.

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services 8:00 PM
Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.
Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist

Christian Science Church

**8300 Adelphi Road,
Hyattsville, MD**

"Jesus is the Prince of Peace."

**Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday meeting 7:30 p.m.**



Worship with us at
**Greenbelt Baptist
Church**

Biblical
Confessional
Reformed
Gospel Centered

Sunday School Worship Service Evening Service
9:15 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm

<<101 Greenbelt Rd. Greenbelt MD>>
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
301-474-4212
[@GreenbeltBaptist](https://www.instagram.com/greenbeltbaptist)

Never put a period where a comma should be . . .

Greenbelt Community Church



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
a just world for all

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome **HERE**.

1 Hillside Road, Greenbelt 301-474-6171 Rev. Glenyce Grindstaff

Join us for this Sunday's
message at 10:15

**"The Light has
Come"**

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

Upcoming Events At the New Deal

On Thursday, January 3, the Songwriters’ Association of Washington (SAW) Open Mic and Featured Artist Showcase will be hosted by Lynn Hollyfield. Featured Artists are tried and true songwriters, working on their craft and sharing their gifts. The evening’s Featured Artist will perform at 8 p.m. Also sign up at 6:30 for the open mic sessions: from 7 to 8 p.m., then from 8:45 to 10 p.m.

Friday, January 4. 2:30 to 4 p.m.: Join a Music Makers Jam Session, welcoming voices and instruments to make music together in a casual, informal, supportive atmosphere. All ages and levels of experience are invited. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.: Soulified Village brings funk, rock, pop, r & b, neo-soul, gospel and originals, delivering familiar music and introducing their homegrown material.

Saturday, January 5, 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Still Standing offers rockin’ blues, American roots, jump, swing and rockabilly. This band features Linwood Taylor, Wave Milor, Scott Rabino and Wolf Crescenze.

Sunday, January 6, 11 a.m. to noon: Deaf Group Weekly Brunch Meeting, deaf and hearing people socialize together using sign language. Newcomers are welcome and can find more information on Facebook about this event, and about learning sign language. 7 to 9 p.m.: enjoy poet songwriter Annette Wasilik, whose lilting, haunting and unforgettable voice weaves an intimate, visionary spell. She is joined by songwriter Brian Evans and mandolin player and vocalist Jeff Karn.

Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Basset Hound Boys will play 50s rockabilly from Sun Records artists such as Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent and Roy Orbison.

Wednesday, January 9, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The band Reggie Right Eye and the Missing Pieces deliver blues, roots rock, rockabilly, a little country, originals and unexpected covers, with top musicians from the DMV region.

Screech and Kestrel

On Saturdays, January 5, January 12, January 19 and January 26 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m., the Patuxent Research Refuge has programs on two birds of prey: the American Kestrel and Eastern Screech Owl. This program is for all ages and no registration is required.

Public programs at the refuge are free. For more information visit fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent or call 301-497-5887.

Note: These programs will be cancelled if the government shutdown is not resolved.

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111



City Information & Events

MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 7-11

Monday, January 7 at 7:30pm **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/ Economic Development Coordinator** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 & 996, and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv

Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00pm **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: Vagrancy*

Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00pm **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: Place-making banners and murals on the concrete walls of the 193 overpass*

Wednesday, January 9 at 6:00pm **MML LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION (Annapolis) followed by: 8:30pm COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Budget Update** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Thursday, January 10 at 3:00pm **ETHICS COMMISSION** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Library.

Thursday, January 10 at 7:30pm **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB)** at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 101 Cherrywood Lane. *On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes, Community Feedback, Petition on Police Use of Military Equipment, Next Meeting and other matters as time permits. This agenda is subject to change.*

The schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

Greenbelt Pre-School Program Mom’s Morning Out

This traditional pre-school program provides activities that encourage social development, offers beginning reading, math, & science curriculum, develops fine and gross motor skills and encourages lots of fun with peers. Children must be fully potty trained before they are eligible to register.

Ages 3-4 years Tu/Th 9:00am-12:00pm Greenbelt Youth Center
Ages 4-5 years M/W/F 9:00am-1:00pm Greenbelt Youth Center
Instructors: Gaye Houchens, Shelly Cooper

*Pre-School Program is licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education #251208
Registration now open! Sign up soon! Spaces are limited!
Winter/Spring session begins on January 7, 2019

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Advisory Committee of Education, Community Relations Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and Youth Advisory Committee.

Info: 301-474-8000

COMMUNITY ART DROP-IN DAY

Sunday, January 6, 1pm-3pm. FREE.
Greenbelt Community Center
All ages welcome. Materials provided.

Painting party with Artist in Residence Kathy Karlson. Experiment with techniques for painting clouds and trees, using washes and lines.

YOU ARE INVITED

GREENBROOK LAKE COMMUNITY MEETING

Please join the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) for an informational meeting to discuss the upcoming stormwater construction project in the Greenbrook Lake community. CWP team members will share the environmental and community benefits of this great program.

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| WHEN | January 7, 2019 |
| TIME | 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm |
| WHERE | 15 Crescent Road Greenbelt, MD |

For questions, please contact Jam Kendrick at jam.kendrick@thecleanwaterpartnership.com

For more information, please visit TheCleanWaterPartnership.com

Notice of Charter Amendment Resolution

At its regular meeting of December 10, 2018, the City Council adopted a resolution to amend the City Charter. As required by state law, this resolution will be posted in its entirety for 40 days, until January 19, at the Municipal Building, as well as on the City’s Web site at www.greenbeltmd.gov. Copies may also be requested of the City Clerk. It will become effective on January 29, 2019, unless a proper petition to submit the amendment to the voters on a referendum is filed as permitted by law. As also required by state law, this notice is given to provide a fair summary of the resolution.

Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2018-1 Resolution No. 2069

A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt Adopted Pursuant to the Authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and Section 13 of Article 23A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, (1957 Edition as Amended), Title, “Corporation-Municipal,” Subtitle “Home Rule” to Amend the Charter of the City of Greenbelt Found, in Whole or in Part, in the Compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (1983 Edition as Amended), as Prepared by the Department of Legislative Reference Pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1983, by Repealing and Reenacting with Amendments Section 16(A), Titled “Appointments” to Expand the Number of Members

Purpose: To amend the City Charter to expand the Board of Elections number of members from five (5) to seven (7).

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at 301-474-3870 or banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

WINTER GED COURSE INFORMATION

January 7-March 27, 2019

Registration and first class will be held on Monday, January 7, 2019 at the SPRINGHILL LAKE Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane from 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Students should bring pencil, pen, and a notebook. Students must be at least 16 years of age and have withdrawn from school in order to take the GED course. They are also required to show proof of residency (i.e. current lease, phone or electric bill, driver’s license or Motor Vehicle I.D. card).

Students are required to purchase a copy of the GED textbook, calculator and test-taking materials for \$45 (purchased from Greenbelt CARES). There is no registration fee for GREENBELT RESIDENTS. There is a \$175 registration fee for Non-Greenbelt residents.

Call 301-345-6660 or email jhering@greenbeltmd.gov

If your New Year’s resolution involves more community involvement, the newly-formed

Greenbelt Pedestrian & Bicycle Task Force

needs your help in setting initiatives and goals to make Greenbelt a more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly city.

Plan on attending our next meeting:
Thursday, January 10, 2019, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Community Center, room 112 (the gallery).

We need to hear about your experiences and hear your ideas! Plan on joining us on the 10th.

If you have any questions, please contact John Campanile, jbelltower@yahoo.com or 240-360-9637.

Free Greenbelt Community Nursing Program

A partnership between Bowie State & Washington Adventist University Schools of Nursing and the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program

Open to Greenbelt seniors age 60+ or disabled adults 50+ who reside within incorporated City limits.
Beginning Wednesday, January 16th

- Participants will receive up to 6 home visits from student nurses.
- Home visits will be scheduled weekly, on Wednesdays, between 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Student nurses will call the client to schedule the first home visit.

Free services offered include: Bathing Assistance, Blood Sugar Monitoring & Assistance with Finger Sticks, Health Education, Vital Signs Monitoring, Patient Advocacy with Health Care Professionals, Medication Management...and more.

Contact Sharon Johnson, GAIL Community Case Manager, to register: 240-542-2029 OR sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov
*** SPACE IS LIMITED***

Comprehensive and High-Quality Health Care Right in Your Neighborhood

Doctors Community Health System is dedicated to helping you maintain and improve your health. Providing **same-day appointments** and accepting **most insurance plans**, our network of care has offices at convenient locations.

Doctors Community Practices at Bowie
(Primary Care)
4000 Mitchellville Road, Suites B216 and 422
Bowie, Maryland 20716
301-262-0020 and 301-262-9872

Doctors Community Practices at Crofton
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)
2191 Defense Highway, Suite 201
Crofton, Maryland 21114
410-451-9091

Doctors Community Practices at District Heights
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)
6400 Marlboro Pike
District Heights, Maryland 20747
301-736-7000

Doctors Community Practices at Laurel
(Primary Care and Diabetes Care)
13900 Baltimore Avenue
Laurel, Maryland 20707
301-725-5652

Doctors Community Practices at Riverdale
(Primary Care, Family Medicine and Endocrinology)
6502 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 100
Riverdale, Maryland 20737
301-927-0088

Doctors Community Practices at Temple Hills
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)
5859 Allentown Way
Temple Hills, Maryland 20728
240-563-1026

Metropolitan Medical Specialists
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)
8116 Good Luck Road, Suite 300
Lanham, Maryland 20706
240-241-7474

Health and Wellness Center
(Urgent Care Inside Safeway)
4101 Northview Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20716
301-383-2559

We will also support your overall health goals by streamlining your access to additional Doctors Community Health System services: weight loss program, breast health, digestive disease care, orthopedic services, surgical services, vascular health, endocrinology services and many others.

Schedule an appointment today. Also, visit us at DCHweb.org.



DIRKSEN continued from page 1



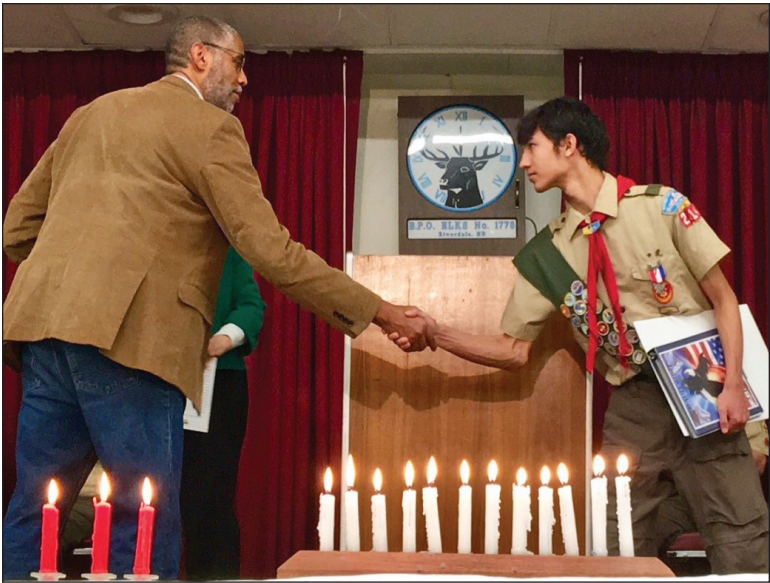
Front: the Dirksen family from left, Matt, Jaden, Lucy, Raina, Linden. Back, from left: Gary Sanderson and Andrew Gardner

- Photos by Matthew Sanderson

included his mother Lucy, father Matt, and sisters Raina and Linden, both of whom are founding members of the recently started Girls Troop 214.

Jaden started Scouts in Cub Scout Pack 1461 in Bethesda in the fall of first grade, where he earned his Bobcat and Wolf badges before transferring to Pack 202 in Greenbelt, where he earned his Bear and Webelos badges. In 2010 he earned his Arrow of Light and joined Boy Scout Troop 214. Since that time he has held positions of increasing responsibility as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader and troop scribe. He has earned 21 merit badges, and was also inducted into the Order of the Arrow, an honor society for campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives.

The final step in the process to earn his Eagle rank was his Eagle project, where he planned and built a pollinator garden at Greenbelt Lake in coordination with the City of Greenbelt and



Mayor Emmett Jordan congratulates Jaden.

volunteers from his troop and the local community. The garden can be fully appreciated come springtime.

Jaden is currently pursuing an associate’s degree in computer science at Prince George’s Community College. He is continuing to support his troop as an adult leader where he is able to mentor and convey his knowledge to the young and upcoming scouts.

Jonathan Murray is a Boy Scout Troop 214 committee member.

SCHOOL continued from page 1

president of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and the Do Something Club, which she founded in 11th grade. In 12th grade, she served as president of the National Honor Society.

Her experience as a science and tech student helped to provide her with strategic and deductive thinking skills, often useful in board decision-making. This especially has aided her in the challenges inherent in the implementation of a \$2 billion budget.

Murray, class of 2010, was also in the science and tech program and was elected in 2016, representing District 1. He said that “the support network and feedback from my former classmates, teachers and administrators has helped me make better decisions as a school board member.”

Murray stated that “ERHS is a special place to me, and in my opinion one of the best schools in the entire country. I really grew into the person I am today.” He credited his experience in student government and as the student member on the Maryland State Board of Education, as well as participation in athletics and his

academic demands, as instrumental to his seeking public office.

Thomas is from the class of 2010 and was elected in 2018, representing District 2, which includes ERHS. He distinguished himself academically in the science and tech program and participated in Dem Raider Boyz Step Squad.

According to an article in the Raider Review, Thomas wants to reduce school overcrowding, improve communication between the school board and its constituents, and improve teacher recruitment/retention. The article reported that his ERHS English teacher Troy Bradbury felt that Thomas’s teaching experience helps him view issues from a teacher’s perspective. The article cites Jonathon Williams, a campaign assistant, who praised Thomas as driven, with the “lives of students and faculty at heart.”

McNeill hopes that all three former students will always carry with them the ERHS values of responsibility, respect, integrity and kindness.



- Photos courtesy of PGCPs



David Murray



Raaheela Ahmed

Stonefish Is the Next Play At Greenbelt Arts Center

by Eric C. Cline

The Coil Project presents the original play *Stonefish*, a guest production at the Greenbelt Arts Center this month.

In this nation where violence seems increasingly prevalent in our communities, this new play focuses on one small group of people in one place where violence happened. The play asks some important questions: What makes someone a monster and what does it mean to be able to forgive them?

This intense drama tells a family’s story of tragedy and survival. Twins Mason and Dixon (both played by Amanda Zeitler) and their family – troubled younger brother Lewis (Ren Stone), well-meaning father Stan (Sean Butler) and devoted friend Christopher (Matt Baughman) – have already been through hell, but something worse is hiding in plain sight.

Stonefish is written by local playwright Erica Smith. “Stone-

fish is about what you don’t see coming that can drastically change your life,” says director David Dieudonne. “This is one of those plays, I think, that does what theater should do: spark a conversation or make you go home and pick up the phone and call somebody and say, ‘I need to tell you that I love you.’”

Stonefish runs on January 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. and January 13 and 20 at 2 p.m. at the Greenbelt Arts Center.

The Coil Project is a local theater company committed to writing and producing high-quality original theater and art in D.C., Maryland and beyond. To learn more, visit thecoilproject.org. For tickets and to find out about other productions coming to the Greenbelt Arts Center in the new year, visit greenbeltartscenter.org.

Content Warning: This show contains themes of gun violence, suicide and gunfire.



PHOTO BY REBECCA FISCHLER

Amanda Zeitler plays twins Mason and Dixon in *The Coil Project's Stonefish*, a guest production at the Greenbelt Arts Center, opening on January 11.

Free Cancer Screening At Doctors Hospital

Free Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings, Professional Office Building, Suite 110. Women who reside in Prince George’s County may qualify if they have a photo ID, are age 40 or older, are uninsured or underinsured or have a limited income. Appointment required: 301-552-8524

Free Colorectal Cancer Screening Program, North Building, 4th Floor. Colon or colorectal cancer is often preventable and curable. Prince George’s County residents may qualify for a no-cost colonoscopy if they are age 50 or older, age 50 or younger with a family history of colorectal cancer and uninsured or underinsured. An appointment is required: 301-552-7705.

Ongoing Support Groups at Doctors

Free Breast Cancer Support Group, third Tuesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m., North Building, 4th Floor, Room 415. Join women who are newly diagnosed with or are recovering from breast cancer. 240-542-3034.

Free Diabetes Support Group, third Monday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., North Building, 5th Floor, DSE Room. Join people who have diabetes as well as their families for engaging and interactive discussions about coping with this disease. 301-552-8661.

Free Drop-In Grief Support Group, second Monday of each month, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Critical Care Conference Room, 2nd Floor. This group provides supportive listening, sharing and psycho-educational resources to grieving people. 301-888-5671.

Free Post-Bariatric Surgery Support Group, second Friday of each month, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., North Building, 5th Floor. Meet other post-bariatric surgery patients while learning and sharing within a compassionate and professional environment. 240-965-4405.

Nominations Sought For Art Advocate

Nominations are open for the Sue Hess Maryland Arts Advocate of the Year Award. Every year, Maryland Citizens for the Arts honors a Marylander who has dedicated time and effort to building the arts community. The award is named for Sue Hess who was the first chair of the board of trustees and the longest serving member of the organization. Nominations for the statewide award are due by noon on Friday, January 11. To learn more, go to mdarts.org/md-arts-community/sue-hess-maryland-arts-advocate-of-the-year-award.



Shutdown

Home and Feeling Terrible

Employment issues come with a range of emotions from positive and happy at one end of the scale to negative and unhappy at the other end. The current partial government shutdown touches many lives and affects people in different ways. A group of people powerfully affected are government employees and their families. This past week members of the Greenbelters group on Facebook shared some of their responses to the shutdown.

Sharing her negative feelings in the aftermath of the shutdown, Ashley Landreth said, “I’m home as a result of the shutdown and feeling terrible that I’ve canceled my dog walks from my local independent business. Also, not knowing whether we will ultimately be paid is stressful. In addition, I’m responsible (in my government job) for mandatory reporting to other federal agencies at the end of January so once we get back to work, I may need to work overtime to get it all done on time, which I’m not looking forward to.”

Dorothy Didi Ledson Peck added, “In general, the local mood is as dismal as the weather. I went to meet a friend for dinner after work last night [at a local eatery]. From 5:15 to 6:45 we were the only people in the restaurant. The phone wasn’t ringing for carryout. My friend commented that the lack of business ‘must be due to the shutdown.’”

Dan Solomon expressed some of his fears saying, “It is scary. Even though we are of retirement age, we haven’t been able to afford to retire. We partially support our youngest son and, like many people, live paycheck to paycheck. We don’t know how we’ll pay our basic expenses if the shutdown goes on for very long. We have upcoming medical expenses (my wife has a serious medical condition), travel plans to see children and grandchildren, and all the normal daily and monthly bills. He went on to say that, “Part of the anxiety is not only how to make ends meet during the shutdown, but

See **TERRIBLE**, page 9

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depending on their paychecks from week to week.”

Linda Fuchs Gehrman said that she experienced a shutdown for a half month (2013). As soon as it was over government employees got all back pay immediately on their payroll check. The contractors suffered greatly, she said, “because arguments started with the details of our contracts and they didn’t want to pay contractors ever for the half-month shutdown.” She related that it finally took a full year to get paid. She said that at the agency where she works about 80 percent of the workers are contractors and that while trying to minimize the impact on government employees, the “contractors really got hurt badly.” Bernard Kelly added that at his agency it varies by job type and contract employer, though. He also said that he is “still employed and being paid and expected to work,” though he needs to find an alternative work location for the duration of the shutdown. At some stage, he says he may lose access to his primary work email and equipment, which will restrict his ability to do his job remotely. Meta Sienkiewicz agreed, saying, “We’re expected to work on approved projects from other work locations or take vacation time, just as if it were a snow day. I had already planned to take off this week but made an unscheduled trip in this morning to change all my passwords.”

Mary Lou Fisher relates this story: “My daughter and her fiancé are both government employees who are affected by the shutdown. Obviously, I am worried about them. They have the same expenses as any homeowners plus my daughter has a lot of medical issues. We just returned from Cleveland where she had a procedure and we are waiting for the results. I am retired, on Social Security and a teacher’s retirement.”

A respondent who requested to remain anonymous said, “In general, I’m conflicted about the whole shutdown. On the positive side, some of my older friends at work remember previous long

shutdowns as being an annoyance more than a hardship. They are using the time to catch up on work around their houses and side projects. Personally, I am using the extra time to work on my PhD proposal, so the extra time is nice.” The same respondent went on to say that “on the negative side, any shutdown longer than one or two pay periods will cause my family some amount of financial hardship. Fortunately, my wife also works, and we have a strong support network, so while I am stressed, I know that we will likely be okay. I know that I am lucky in this regard, as some workers are living paycheck to paycheck. The details vary from contract to contract, but I think many of the contractor workforce may have a much bleaker outlook with the possibility of not being paid at all for this time.”

An example of how the shutdown affects the local economy is the predicament of renters in Greenbelt who are government contractor employees. Although some contractors may be paid, depending on the type of contract, many are not and they are also not reimbursed later, as federal employees usually are. They are cut off from the lifeline of a regular paycheck and don’t know when it will return. One such person who lives in Greenbelt and works at NASA headquarters in D.C. saves up specifically to survive these shutdowns – after a devastating experience during the long shutdown in the Clinton administration when she was forced to spend all she had saved towards owning her own home just to avoid eviction. Many contractors don’t have enough disposable income to set aside money for this type of rainy day and, if the situation continues for any length of time, are forced into difficult circumstances from which they may not recover financially for years.



Shutdown

Partial Government Shutdown Has Unexpected Consequences



PHOTO BY MELINDA BRADY

The gate on Research Road which leads into Beltsville Agricultural Research Center is closed. A handmade sign attests to the sentiments of some locals about the current federal shutdown. The picnic areas at Greenbelt Park are also closed due to the shutdown.

Some of the results of the federal government shutdown are obvious such as economic effects and emotional effects. Some of the results are less obvious. The unexpected consequences of not funding certain large swaths of government that directly affect up to 800,000 people include businesses patronized by some of those government employees and money normally spent by them now not being spent. Here are some of the stories of unexpected consequences of the partial government shutdown as collected from the Greenbelters Facebook page.

Research Road links Ridge Road with points north of Greenbelt and can be used as a sort of back way out of town, sometimes convenient for avoiding heavy traffic on Edmonston Road. A gate closes off Research Road at night (closes at 7 p.m., opens 6 a.m. weekdays, closed weekends). Because of the shutdown, that gate will remain closed until the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) is reopened. Linda Ivy commented about this and said that it would be a hardship because she uses it regularly. Lin Orrin confirmed Ivy’s statement saying that she “had to assume the nearby Research Road gate was closed this morning, since I had to hurry to an appointment” and couldn’t access Research Road to get there.

A respondent who requested to be anonymous gave his take on an unexpected consequence of the shutdown: “The biggest worry for me prior to the shutdown was that my agency’s official policy requires all (so-called) essential employees to cancel leave plans and show up for work in case of a shutdown. However, my family already had nonrefundable airline tickets (booked in June) to go visit my husband’s family in Europe. We were leaving at 8:40 p.m. on Friday 12/21 and I didn’t know if I needed to cancel the trip or plan to turn around and come home early. Luckily, my boss told me not to worry about it and we will work something out, but that was totally at his discretion. A different boss could have required me to report to work and my family’s holiday would have been ruined, at great expense. As soon as I return, I’ll be back to work, and hope the shutdown ends soon so that we can all get back to work and re-

sume getting paid.”

Donn Ahearn commented that he and a friend were going backpacking. “We are planning on Shenandoah National Park. Two sections of the Skyline Drive are closed; one of them will not open for the duration of the shutdown and snow clearing will not be performed on the other one so that is unlikely to be open either. The park isn’t issuing backcountry permits; but it does say that the backcountry is open at user risk. It doesn’t specify day or overnight use.” He went on to wonder, “Are we going to be totally okay to go there and backpack? The truth is, we don’t have any idea, and guidance available from the National Park Service does not help. Philip Larkin responded to Ahearn saying that “this Furloughed Fed just got back from backpacking in Shenandoah National park this week. It’s beautiful out there, with very few people around. Plan to park outside the boundary and hike in. If anything, your biggest problem may be rogue ATVs or hunters taking advantage of the lack of enforcement personnel.”

Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan said that there had been a couple of events scheduled for Greenbelt Park this weekend that are not going to happen due to the government shutdown. He added that “because furloughed federal employees are not allowed to access email or update websites, the events (such as B&O Railroad, Greenbelt’s Neighbor, scheduled for December 29) are still listed on Facebook.

Charles E Fulcher, Jr., said: “Both of our boys (ages 4 and 2) are in the Easter Seals Childcare Center housed in the National Archives building in College Park. Because it’s in a federal building, our daycare has to shut down. They’ve made alternate arrangements for some children

at a different location, but it means driving to and from Silver Spring every day, and I think not all students were able to take advantage of it. Fortunately for us the grandparents stayed an extra day to watch the boys today, and we’re heading out of town tomorrow. Next week will be a different story, however, as we consider how we manage daycare. He added another point that “The shutdown doesn’t close everything. I work for the National Cathedral, which is not a part of the federal government ... (so) it’s business as usual for some of us in DC! My wife actually works for the Smithsonian, which in reality is quasi-governmental. Her office is a few blocks away from her museum in a non-government building (the Smithsonian leases space there), so the building remains accessible. Additionally, the funding for her position comes from a different pot of money (non-federal), so she’s able to remain at work. Given the daycare challenges listed above, things would be different if she had to stay home, too, but given our circumstances we’re both still at work.

An anonymous respondent said, “one of the broader effects I worry about is a sense of disrespect for the federal workforce. Engineering disciplines in the civil service are already underpaid compared to private industry. This means that most of us choose to work for (agencies who hire many engineers) because we believe in the mission and want to serve our country in our own way. But there seems to be a growing list of indignities including frequent shutdowns (and the threat thereof), frozen pay, hiring freezes and comments from politicians that cast us as partisans. At the very least, I believe that this damages our institutions by making it harder to attract and retain talent.”

New at Greenbelt Makerspace

Home School Makers! for 3-5th graders

Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:30-11:30am (starts Jan. 8)

make125.org/2018/11/home-school-makers

Recreation and Parks Facilities Master Plan to Move Forward

by Matthew Arbach

At a November 28 worksession, the Greenbelt City Council reviewed the final draft of the Recreation and Parks Facilities Master Plan. Meeting with council were Joseph McNeal, assistant director of recreation facilities, Greg Varda, assistant director of recreation programs, Adam Bossi, consultant from GreenPlay LLC, the company hired to develop the plan, and members of the city’s Park and Recreation Advisory Board. Following the review, McNeal said there were no significant objections to the plan and all concerned appeared to be satisfied. The draft presented reflected discussion from a prior meeting last April. The final plan will now be completed and likely will be adopted, with funding to be approved as part of the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

Initiated by the city in May 2017, the plan as defined in the draft is “a tool designed to help the city meet the current and future recreational needs of its growing and diverse population.” Because of this emphasis, extensive community outreach was undertaken. Residents, stakeholder groups, city staff and councilmembers worked with the consultant to gather information.

Surveys were one method of data collection. This approach

involved sending postcards to a random selection of Greenbelt residences, making surveys available at the Farmers Market and the Festival of Lights and distributing door hangers, mostly in Greenbelt West and East, where responses were initially less numerous.

An important component was the assembling of eight to 10 focus groups which were attended by stakeholders, community leaders, members of city advisory boards and committees, and activity groups, as well as both recreation and park staff.

Another undertaking of the project was a comprehensive inventory and mapping of all of Greenbelt’s recreation and park facilities, categorized by type, location and ownership.

The plan includes an historical overview of the importance to Greenbelt of its recreation facilities and programs. In its evaluation, the authors find that the city “has a lot to celebrate in [its] parks and recreation system.” Not only were most of the general needs of the community perceived as being met, but it was found that “the city’s lands, facilities, infrastructure, recreation programs and services directly contribute to community well-being and help make Greenbelt

an attractive place to live, work and play.”

Looking toward the future, however, several key issues were stressed. These included public recreation, which should be both “close to home” and “affordable,” as part of Greenbelt’s historical legacy and the centrality of parks and recreation to Greenbelt’s original design. Despite general satisfaction, residents wanted to see improved maintenance; a wider diversity of programs; more bike and pedestrian pathways to enhance home access; better communication conduits to the renting population and to diverse groups; and “an aggressive and proactive long-term management strategy to best maintain the city’s aging and heavily used recreation facilities, including the Community Center and Buddy Attick Park.”

McNeal asserted that addressing the needs of Greenbelt’s more transient population is of particular concern. These residents are centered mostly in the area’s apartment complexes, especially the Franklin Park neighborhood. He said achieving community involvement in these areas is hard and that the Recreation Department needs to “try some different strategies.” One idea he mentioned that is being considered is a pop-up mobile recreational van that would visit these areas twice a month and provide activities and programs.

The draft plan concludes with recommendations and an action plan for moving forward, noting confidence that Greenbelt is “well positioned” to continue providing engaging programs and fitness and leisure opportunities for all residents.

Seven broad recommendations were laid out: continue with the “diverse portfolio” of programs; improve “safe, walkable and bikeable paths and trails” throughout the parks and the city itself; create “a set of measurable standards, schedules and shared expectations” to guide better park

See PARKS, page 11

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Concealed Weapon

December 20, 10:45 p.m., 10 Court Southway. A 50-year-old resident was arrested and charged with concealed deadly weapon, theft and two counts of drug possession when officers responded to a report of a verbal dispute. He was also found to be in possession of a pair of brass knuckles and prescription medicine that he allegedly took from another person. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Theft

December 21, 6:45 a.m., 5500 block Stream Bank Lane. A package containing building materials was taken from the front stoop of a home under construction.

December 24, 10 p.m., 9200 block Springhill Lane. An unattended wallet was taken at the laundromat.

Attempted Fraud

December 21, noon, 7900 block Mandan Road. A man who answered an online employment ad was sent a check, with instructions to deposit it into his account, keep a portion of it and send the remaining money to another location. When he attempted to deposit the check he was told that it was fraudulent.

Vehicle Crime

One vehicle was stolen. On December 20, a white 2008 Ford F-450 SUV with Md. tags 7DK1590 was taken from the 9200 block Edmonston Road.

One vehicle was recovered. A 2017 Volkswagen Passat reported stolen December 12 from the 100 block Westway was recovered December 20 by D.C. Metropolitan police in the 2200 block Channing Street N.W.

Four thefts and one attempted theft from vehicles were reported. A passenger side window was broken out and the vehicle was rifled through in the 7800 block Mandan Road but nothing appeared to have been taken.

Four tires and rims were taken from a vehicle in the 8000 block Greenbelt Station Parkway. Clothing, picture frames and two sets of pots and pans were taken from the 6300 block Golden Triangle Drive after a window was broken out to gain access.

A purse was taken from a possibly unlocked vehicle in the 8000 block Mandan Road and miscellaneous household items were taken in the 9100 block Springhill Lane from a car that was unlocked.

Vandalism occurred in the 7600 block Mandan Road where a front passenger window was broken out.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

TERRIBLE continued from page 8

wondering if back pay will get approved. We don’t know if we ever will be able to regain some semblance of financial stability. Being older and finding yourself with the same financial instability as when young and just starting out is upsetting and discouraging. The government shutdown significantly contributes to this.”

Bob Rudd said that he understands the need for both parties (Congress and the Administration) standing their respective ground during the shutdown until some type of compromise can be negotiated. He went on to say, “I know many friends and neighbors impacted and know what it was like, many times, when my wife was a government employee. It would be a great help if Congress would pass and the President sign an appropriations bill guaranteeing full back pay for everyone involved including contracted staff after the shutdown is resolved.” Jay Bellamy said that he was “not too worried though because there has never been a shutdown that I know of where government workers didn’t get reimbursed,” but expressed the source of many people’s concern underlining the problem which he said is “how long the shutdown will last and how long workers will go without any source of income. Promised money later doesn’t help anyone today. Regardless of whom one chooses to blame for a government shutdown, there are so many that are impacted by such a decision. From government employees and their families, to contractors and those dependent on the services provided by various government agencies. I work at the National Archives and I deal every day with folks whose job it is to do professional research at the Archives. This

is how they make their living and as long as we are closed, not only are Archive employees going without a paycheck, but those who depend on us are also going unpaid. As for me, I live alone and have no other source of income. I’m fortunately okay for now, but who knows what my financial situation will be weeks from now. Although we most likely will receive back pay when government agencies reopen, money promised for later means nothing today.”

Jon Gardner of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center notes, “Most people who work for the government are very dedicated to their jobs, so a big impact of the shutdown is the disappointment people feel because of projects that can’t be completed.” As an example, he points out that during the 2013 shutdown, NASA’s operations in Antarctica ended up getting cancelled for the whole Antarctic Summer season, since they weren’t able to get started on time. Gardner says that he has organized a session at the meeting of the American Astronomical Society in early January in Seattle. Meeting planners are expecting 200 to 300 astronomers from around the country to attend the session. Gardner says that if the shutdown continues through that date, the session will be cancelled.

Even those who are not U.S. government employees feel the emotional effects. For example, Josh Hamlin said that he was “indirectly feeling the stress of many friends” and was glad he didn’t take the federal job he had considered.



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Wildlife at Lake Artemesia

by Kathryn Beard

The water at Lake Artemesia is very clean right now and able to support many forms of wildlife, especially fish. This is shown by the many species of birds at the lake recently, including coots, cormorants, goldeneyes, great

blue herons, great egrets, buffleheads and mergansers, belted kingfisher and a trumpeter swan. If you want to do something special with your children visit Lake Artemesia and see the many birds on or near the lake.



A Great Egret looks for his dinner.



A Great Blue Heron keeping his feet dry

PARKS continued from page 9

maintenance and recreation infrastructure; focus on “ongoing investment in maintenance, repairs and renovations” to keep existing systems vital against wear and use over time; address the mixed quality of city athletic fields; address a need for “new means of outreach and relationship building” to ensure that all are aware of what is available in parks and recreation; and activate the new park space in Greenbelt Station through programs and activities.

The detailed action plan was distilled into five goals: enhance organizational and operational efficiencies; improve program and service delivery throughout the city; continue to maintain and improve the quality of

Greenbelt’s park and recreation assets; enhance the overall level of service, as well as improve access to facilities, programs and services; and continue to balance funding needs while ensuring that programs and opportunities are affordable for everyone.

McNeal considered the draft plan to be both a frank and efficacious barometer, extolling what is good and revealing what needs improvement. He remarked that for a small city, Greenbelt has a sizeable recreational system that requires a great deal of oversight and funding to stay vital. He concluded, “While we hope residents say we are doing good so far, we know can always do better.”

Kathleen Gallagher contributed to this article.



This Trumpeter Swan was tagged by researchers in Canada.

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- Photos by Robin Olson





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